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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 001169

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TAGS: ENRG PREL ECON PGOV EINV CH IR

SUBJECT: CHINA "REINFORCES" ITS CONCERN ABOUT  
SINOPEC-YADAVARAN DEAL

REF: BEIJING 1073

Classified By: Classified by Charge d'Affairs, a.i. Daniel Piccata. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

¶1. (C) China wants to "reinforce" its concern about the Sinopec-Yadavaran deal and urged the United States to keep in mind that Sinopec is "not just a company," said Director General of the MFA's North American and Oceanian Affairs Department Zheng Zeguang, during a March 26 meeting with the Charge. China's energy security is a real national interest, Zheng underscored. China hopes Sinopec is not sanctioned and, in considering the consequences of sanctions, urged the United States to remember China's support for the three UN Security Council resolutions on Iran, he said.

¶2. (C) The Charge noted that Embassy officials met with Sinopec on March 19 and requested additional information on the deal (reftel), and that at that meeting Sinopec agreed to present the U.S. questions to its legal department for consideration. The Charge warned Zheng that Sinopec's deal sends the wrong signal to Iran at this critical time in our diplomatic effort on the nuclear issue.

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